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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY : Hungary

DATE DISTR. 6 February 1953

SUBJECT **Troops and Airfield at Papa**

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1. The airfield is occupied by Russians. Their headquarters is in the Esterházy Castle. In this area many buildings have been occupied by the Russians.
2. At the airfield there are some 60 jet fighters, 77 YAK-9s, 45 two-engined IL-10s, and some small biplane courier planes, as well as 12 IL-2 Hungarian planes.
3. The total strength of the Russians in Pápa is given [redacted] as about 5,000. This includes those in the airfield barracks, at Esterházy Castle, and the troops quartered in the two schools. Armored, artillery and AA units are in the town. Seven T-34 tanks without muzzle brakes have been observed and eight automatic small caliber AA guns.
4. It is noteworthy that the Russians have many new two-axle and three-axle cars of the ZIZ, Tatra and GMC types. These replaced the old ones during the summer 1952.
5. The airfield lies 2 km, northeast of the town, between the railroad lines from Pápa to Győr and Kisbér. It is 2,200 by 1,500 m, but can be extended considerably to the northeast. The ground is dry loam. There are four runways, each about 40 m. wide..
6. In the barracks south of the Pápa-Borsosgyőr highway, formerly the Hussar barracks, there is a Hungarian parachute battalion, about 500 men strong. The barracks was much improved during 1951. This battalion exercises with the IL-2 planes, called "Tevés"; each accommodates 12 men.
7. In exercises the parachutists are attached to the plane by a cord about 30 m. long, which is tearing loose, automatically opens the parachute. In addition to back parachutes, they carry emergency breast parachutes.

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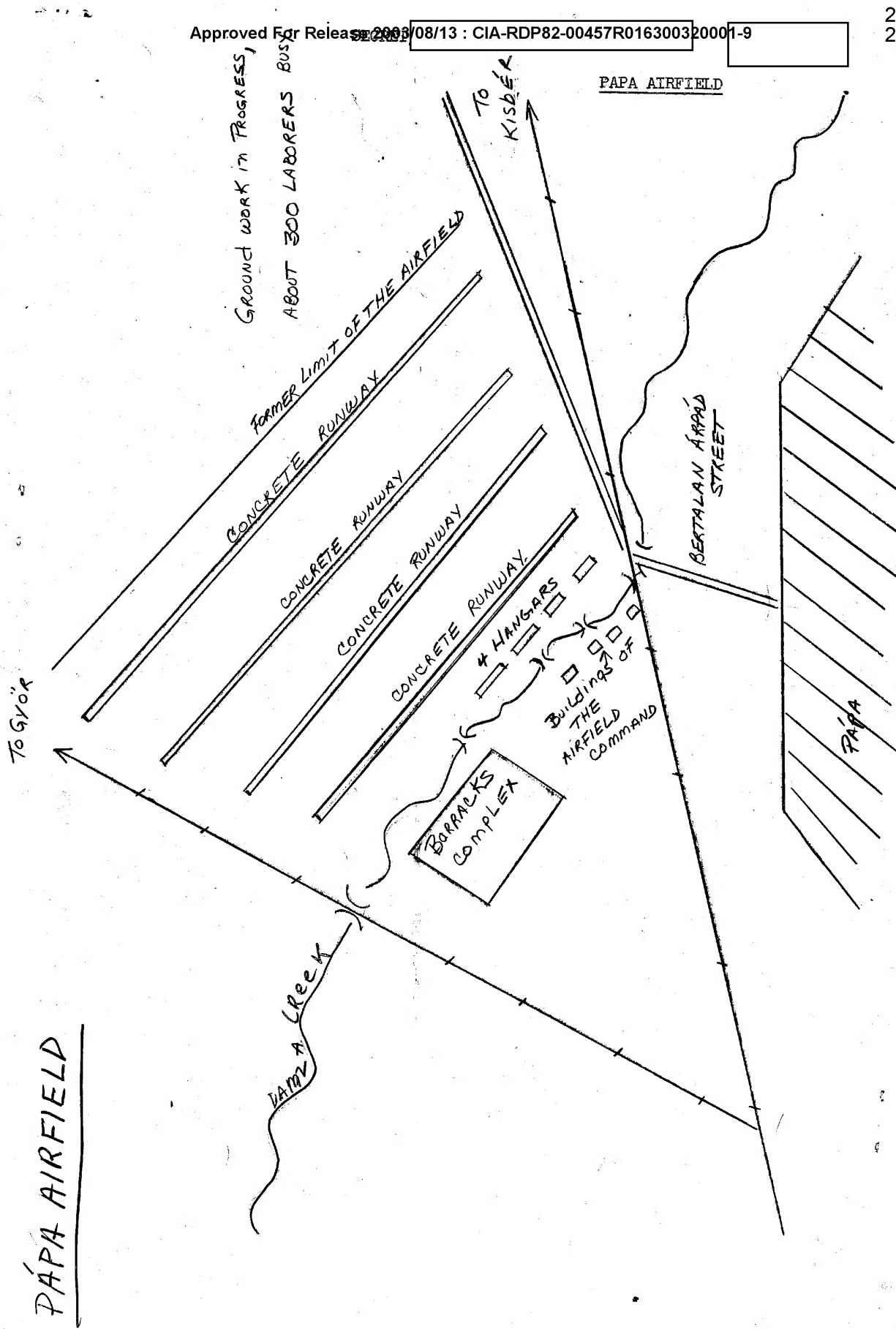
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8. There are two new barracks in the barracks complex near Városlőd. The one nearer Pápa is occupied by a Hungarian field artillery regiment of about 1,000 men. It has twenty-four 122 mm. guns. This barracks consists of four three-storied buildings, with several garages and parks for guns. The buildings have flat roofs and the whole complex is surrounded by a brick wall. There is a headquarters staff at the same place, probably a division command.
9. The other barracks is occupied by a Hungarian assault gun unit, of about 500 men. The number of guns is uncertain, but there is at least one 85 mm. without a muzzle brake, and a short-barrelled 122 mm.

Encl. Sketch map of the Pápa airfield, 1 page.

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